

 <p>Children's Services Agency</p> <p>Communication Issuance</p> <p>20-076</p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response: Entries and Replacements
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The following provides instructions and recommendations regarding placement transitions into foster homes or Child Caring Institutions (CCIs) when children have been tested for or have known exposure to COVID-19. Parents, guardians, workers and transportation liaisons should be aware of these recommendations prior to youth transfer to protect themselves and prevent community spread. Receiving foster homes and CCI/facilities should be aware of these recommendations prior to transfer and arrival.

Prior to any placement or CCI admission, the worker must inform the new placement of the youth's current health status, any COVID-19 test results, any known exposure to an individual with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, and any COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever, shortness of breath, cough, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell). The decision whether to quarantine or isolate the new youth should be made based on symptomology of COVID-19 at the time of placement, known exposure to COVID-19, test results, and based on any coordination or advice from the local health department or treating medical professional.

If the youth is being transitioned from a CCI and has tested positive or been exposed to COVID-19, the facility is responsible for notifying their local health department of the youth's transfer, including the plans for transfer provided by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The local health department is then responsible for contacting the health department of the county receiving the youth so local protocols can be followed.

Quarantine vs Isolation

Quarantine is the separation or restriction of movement of well persons who *might* have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others and monitoring them to determine if they become ill. Quarantine helps limit further spread of COVID-19 that can occur before a person knows they are sick or infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. A person may have been exposed to the virus by being in close contact with other individuals who were known to have COVID-19. Residents in quarantine stay separated from others

and should have limited movement outside of their room. While youth are in quarantine, staff should check the resident's temperature twice each day (or more if symptoms warrant) and watch for symptoms.

Isolation is the separation or restriction of activities of an ill person with COVID-19 from those who are not ill. Isolation is used to separate sick people from healthy people. Residents who are in isolation should be in their rooms and should have food and medication brought to them. They should use a different bathroom (if possible). During quarantine and isolation, follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to prevent spreading the disease:

- Use a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing and immediately throw the tissue away and wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If bathrooms are shared, disinfect frequently touched surfaces with a household cleaner.
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet at all times.
- Wear a face covering when the person in quarantine or isolation is outside of their room.
- Do not share personal household items such as cups, glasses, eating utensils and towels. Use paper or plastic cups and plastic utensils instead.
- Use over-the-counter medicines such as acetaminophen for pain and fever if they help the person feel better.
- Do not leave the facility except for medical care or other essential needs. If it is necessary to go out, wear a cloth face covering and maintain a safe distance (at least 6 feet) from others.

Youth Health Status at Time of Placement	Quarantine	Isolation	Follow Up
Positive COVID-19 test – with symptoms		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days since symptoms first appeared. • AND 3 days of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms have improved. 	Stay in consistent contact with the child's parents and health care provider.
Positive COVID-19 test – no symptoms		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days after the date the test was performed AND child continues to have no symptoms. 	If symptoms develop before the 10 days, contact the local health department in which the child now resides for isolation timeline recommendations.
Negative COVID-19 test – has symptoms		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 days of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms have improved. 	Stay in consistent contact with the child's parents and health care provider. The health care provider may recommend a follow-up test.
No symptoms; but known exposure to COVID-19	14 days		If symptoms develop, test the child for COVID-19. Contact public health department if positive and adjust isolation timeline.

Testing and Repeat Testing

Prior to COVID-19 testing any youth placed in a CCI facility, the facility should verify that the proper medical consent or documentation of permission to provide routine medical care is on file for the youth. If youth are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, contact their healthcare provider or telehealth program to discuss if the youth should be evaluated for testing. Contact the local health department to determine if there is a need for expanded testing for staff and residents in a CCI/facility.

If youth who tested negative for COVID-19 are moving from a foster home or CCI/facility with documented COVID-19 exposure, follow up testing may be needed as the youth may have been infected but was without a detectable viral load at the time of initial testing. Consult with the health department to develop a strategy for continued repeat testing for members of the foster home or for residents living in or transferring from CCI/facilities with positive COVID-19 residents and staff.

Travel Guidelines for Transporting Youth

Federal guidelines prohibit mass transit (commercial air, train, bus) travel for infected youth until an adequate quarantine/isolation period is completed.

For in-state travel, these critical issues must be addressed to ensure safe transport:

- All youth must complete the above delineated quarantine/isolation at the foster home or CCI/facility from which they are leaving or at their destination.
- If the youth has tested positive or is displaying symptoms at the time of transport, the transport should be avoided until isolation is completed, if possible. If transport must be performed, the transporter and all passengers should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and consult their health care provider regarding testing and quarantine immediately following transport. Safe transport of the youth means using surgical masks and eye protection. Gloves should be available in the event medical care is required. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol should be readily available.
- Youth should ride 6 feet away from others as much as possible. For example, in a van.
- If no symptoms are present, everyone in the same vehicle must still wear a cloth face covering during transport.
- There must be no co-mingling with the community and for a youth in a CCI/facility, there must be no co-mingling with the general population at the destination location while under quarantine/isolation.
- Family members or temporary caregivers must be aware of the associated risks for youth discharged to their care.
 - Family members transporting youth in a car should have approved PPE and be aware they may have been exposed.
 - Upon arrival at the family home, separate family members who are most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, (e.g., grandparents, those with compromised immune system or other medical conditions) from the youth.

For more information about COVID-19 and congregate care, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html>.